



SELECTED EVENTS – January to April 2006

U.S. Consulate General Leipzig Supports U.S. Team in “Model World Cup”



Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and the Mayor of Bad Dübén, Ekehard Tulaszewski (Center), and high school students from the middle school in the town of Bad Dübén

April 28, 2006. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and consulate staff member Ms. Beate Renker attended a presentation about the U.S. at the Middle School in the town of Bad Dübén. The event was part of the school's participation in a “Model World Cup” championship tournament to be held on May 5th in Leipzig for soccer teams representing area schools. The presentation, performed before a school assembly, included the playing of the U.S. national anthem, square dancing, readings, and videos about the U.S. The mayor of Bad Dübén also attended. The enthusiasm of the players, cheerleaders, drummers and student body ran very high, as it was clear the students were very proud to be representing the U.S. in this tournament. The Consul for Public Affairs' attendance was also highly appreciated, and he made some remarks at the close of the assembly, which was covered by local press.

Focus on Journalism and Politics: Terry Michael Speaks in Dresden, Leipzig and Eisenach



Terry Michael and Katja Wenk, reporter from the student radio station Radio Mephisto at Leipzig University, after the lecture to American Studies students

April 26 - April 27, 2006. Terry Michael, Director of the Washington Center for Politics and Journalism and Professor of Media and Public Affairs, engaged students, journalists and teachers in Dresden and Leipzig on strategic communication and Affirmative Action. At the Technical University Dresden, Mr. Michael addressed a group of communications students. In Leipzig, he lectured to seventy American studies majors and participated in a press breakfast with five local journalists. In Eisenach, he took part in a teacher-in-service training program for Thuringian English teachers. With his background as a journalist and press spokesman, Mr. Michael was able to provide his audiences with extraordinary perspectives on both sides of the political spectrum, as well as valuable insights on current U.S. trends in media and politics.

New Sister City Exchange: Glauchau, Saxony



Lynchburg and Glauchau students; Lord Mayor of Glauchau, Karl-Otto Stetter, and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig

April 19, 2006. From April 13 to 25, the city of Glauchau in Saxony hosted American students and two mothers from its future U.S. sister city, Lynchburg, VA. Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and Consulate General staff met with Glauchau's lord mayor and the American and local students for a roundtable discussion to hear more about the positive impact of this visit. All participants agreed that the program had contributed to eliminating stereotypes, and to strengthening the sister city partnership.

America Day in Hohenstein-Ernstthal



Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig (left) and Hohenstein-Ernstthal's Lord Mayor Erich Homilius (center) with students from Lessing Gymnasium

April 5, 2006. Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig opened a Department of State poster show entitled, "A Nation of Immigrants," at Hohenstein-Ernstthal's city hall. The city of Hohenstein-Ernstthal is the birthplace a well-known German author on American west themes, Karl May. The show was supplemented with archival material from the first wave of immigrants who left the Hohenstein region for St. Louis in the 19th century. Lord Mayor Erich Homilius and the head of the cultural office addressed the audience, which also included the Mayor of Niederfrohna, Lothar Philipp, representatives from the rural district of Chemnitz and 40 high school students from the nearby Lessing Gymnasium. After a short reception, Consul Wenig met with the students and spoke about the Consulate's work and German-American relations, and fielded questions from the 11th and 12th grade students. The Director of the Information Resource Center (IRC) at the U.S. Consulate presented the attending English teachers with brochures on U.S. politics and culture, CD-ROMs "About the USA", and a set of presentation books to start an English language collection at the school library.

Ann Symons, Former President of the American Library Association, Visits Leipzig



Ann Symons, former president of the American Library Association (left), and Regina Bruch, English Language Instructor at University of Applied Sciences, Leipzig

April 3, 2006. Ann Symons, past president of the American Library Association (ALA) and current Library Director of the International School in Moscow, addressed students, librarians and faculty from the University of Applied Sciences in Leipzig on the changing role of modern information professionals. Emphasizing the importance of cooperation between all types of libraries, Mrs. Symons engaged her interlocutors in a lively discussion about varying working conditions, and common interests of librarians throughout the international community. In addition, Symons visited the Leipzig Public Library with its America@your library corner, and attended a working lunch with a group of librarians hosted by Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs, Mark Wenig. This U.S. lecture series, which has been conducted successfully at the university for the past few years, has been received with great interest, not only by Leipzig's information professionals, but also by Leipzig University students pursuing studies in library science and publishing.

Ambassador Timken Engages German Ethnic Minority



Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr. and Mrs. Sue Timken, Sorb Museum Bautzen, Saxony

April 1, 2006. The Sorbs, Germany's only native ethnic minority, were a highlight of the first visit of Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr., his wife Sue and daughter Fran to Bautzen. After a warm welcome by Lord Mayor Schramm and a city tour, Ambassador Timken and his family, Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland, Vice Consul Michael Rousek, and Consulate General staff members discussed the situation of Sorbs and the city with state and federal parliamentarians from the region, three of them of Sorb origin. During a guided tour through the Sorb Museum, Ambassador Timken and his family learned even more about the origin and culture of the Sorbs from the museum director, and chairman of the Sorb umbrella association, "Domowina," Jan Nuck, and from Jurij Wuschanski responsible for "Domowina's" cultural and international relations.

Ambassador Timken Visits Dresden and Freiberg



Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Columbus, Ohio, and his wife (left); Ambassador Timken and his wife

March 31, 2006. Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr., Mrs. Sue Timken and daughter Fran Karsh met with an American delegation from Dresden's sister city, Columbus, Ohio, headed by Mayor Michael B. Coleman, on the occasion of festivities marking the city of Dresden's 800th anniversary. The main ceremony of the celebration took place at the Semper Opera, as the Timkens, Consul General Mark Scheland and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig listened to remarks about the city's past and present, with musical interludes from the Sächsische Staatskapelle and Dresdner Philharmonie Orchestras. The city of Dresden had invited representatives from all of its sister cities to join the celebrations. In the afternoon Ambassador Timken, an Ohio native, met with Columbus Mayor Coleman and his delegation to tour the exhibit, "Foreign Affairs: The Ohio and Dresden Residency Exchange, A Retrospective Print Exhibition." curated by the Ohio Arts Council and the State of Ohio. Earlier in the day, Consul for Public Affairs Wenig represented the Consulate at an opening religious service at the city's famed rebuilt Frauenkirche.

Also on March 31, Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr., his wife Sue and daughter Fran Karsh and Consul Mark Scheland visited the "Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium" (high school) in Freiberg for a one-hour round table discussion with over two dozen students. The mostly 12th graders in this city of 42,000 exhibited strong English language skills and impressed the Ambassador with what he called "well-formulated questions." Issues of interest to the students included the U.S. image as "global policeman," the legitimacy of a nation's foreign policy in the face of domestic opposition, the U.S. immigrant visa lottery, the Kyoto Protocol and alternative approaches to combating climate change, and U.S. views on spurring economic growth in the region. Several students reported having been to the U.S. for a high school year or shorter stay, while others were preparing to go. The group also included one U.S. exchange student from Washington State. Students, teachers and others in attendance, including the mayor of Freiberg, benefited from plainspoken explanations of U.S. policy and a demonstration of U.S. interest and engagement in their region. The Ambassador congratulated school officials on their impressive school building, integrating a 2004 renovation and expansion from an 1875 original construction.

Ambassador Timken's First Visit to Altenburg



Ms. Christine Büring, City of Altenburg; Lord Mayor of Altenburg, Michael Wolf, and Ambassador Timken (From Left)

March 30, 2006. As the first U.S. ambassador to visit Altenburg, Thuringia, Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr. and his family attracted considerable local media attention. Teacher Jeannine Kämpfer, an alumna of the Eastern German Teachers Visitor Program, hosted Mrs. Timken, daughter Fran Karsh, Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig, who fielded questions on a variety of U.S. related topics from local high school students. The discussion was also good preparation for some of the students who will soon be visiting Altenburg's sister city, Hickory, North Carolina. In addition, city representatives engaged Ambassador Timken in a dialog on how to raise private funding to showcase Altenburg's unique cultural treasures, which Mayor Michael Wolf proudly presented during a city tour.

Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr. Visits Magdeburg



Ambassador Timken (center); Uwe Küster, MdL (left); Krister Johnson, Fraunhofer Institute Magdeburg

March 29, 2006. Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr. visited Magdeburg for his first meeting with Saxony-Anhalt Minister-President Wolfgang Böhmer and a full day of appointments at various institutions. Accompanied by his wife, daughter as well as the Consul General Mark Scheland and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig, the Ambassador got together with members of the German-American Dialog Center. Led by Bundestag deputy Uwe Küster, the group outlined the center's five-year contributions to bolstering U.S.-German partnerships. The meeting took place at Magdeburg's newest architectural attraction, the avant-garde "Green Citadel" designed by Friedrich Hundertwasser. Ambassador Timken then met with students at the Otto-von-Guericke-University. He presented the university president a letter announcing the granting of an U.S. English Language Fellow (ELF). The ELF for Magdeburg is the only such stipend awarded to a German university this year as a result of concerted effort by the Leipzig Consulate General. After a visit and tour of the Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operations and Automation with Deputy Director Dr. Gerhard Müller, the Ambassador participated in a roundtable with the editor-in-chief and journalists of Volksstimme Magdeburg.

U.S. Embassy and Consulate General Services Presented at Dresden Annual Library Conference



March 24, 2006. Information Resource Center Coordinator Nancy Rajczak, U.S. Embassy Berlin, and Thea Bohse-Ziganke, Director of the Information Resource Center, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig, talked about services and products for libraries on the occasion of the 95th Annual German Library Conference in Dresden. The conference was attended by about 3 000 librarians, among them 200 from foreign countries. The librarians and information professionals discussed current topics in the area of information society and its upcoming challenges. The new America@your library partnership between the U.S. Embassy and German public libraries also met strong interest of academic and research libraries.

Nancy Rajczak, Information Resource Center Coordinator, U.S. Embassy Berlin

U.S. Presence at the Leipzig Book Fair



Consul General Mark Scheland and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig host a reception at the Consulate Booth

Department's Bureau of International Information Programs and Germany's "About the USA" CD Rom were once again hugely popular at the Consulate's booth. On March 17, Consul General Mark Scheland and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig welcomed visitors. Holly Murten from the U.S. Embassy Berlin and colleagues from Foreign Commercial Service in Hamburg and Leipzig joined the staff at the booth. Elizabeth Scheland, spouse of the Consul General, and American intern Adam Rahal gave a presentation on teaching materials offered by the U.S. National Archives, which attracted a number of highly interested teachers and information professionals. On March 18, American author Dave King introduced his first novel "The Ha-Ha" and signed copies of the German edition, "Homecoming."

American Voice at Leipzig Book Fair



Best-selling author Dave King, currently teaching English at Baruch College at the City University of New York

March 17 -18, 2006. Best-selling author Dave King, currently teaching English at Baruch College at the City University of New York, participated in a program marathon during the Leipzig Book Fair. Consulate General Leipzig and German publisher Aufbau organized numerous interviews and a major reading featuring King, and Aufbau selected King's book as its featured spring selection. King presented his first novel, "The Ha-Ha" (in German, "Homecoming") to an audience of 450 literary enthusiasts in Leipzig's historic "Deutsche Bucherei", part of German National Library system. The turnout was even more remarkable considering it competed with some 132 other readings taking place the same evening all over Leipzig. The bilingual, almost theatrical reading involved the moving story on the costs of war and the infinite worth of human inter-relationships. The event also featured well-known actor Jan Josef Liefers as the German voice. After reading excerpts, the author and actor engaged in a vivid discussion of the writer's craft.

Consul General Mark Scheland Welcomes U.S. Librarians at the Consulate



Consul General Mark Scheland addresses the U.S. Librarians. Center: Information Resource Officer Holly Murten, U.S. Embassy Berlin

understanding of what the United States is doing publicly in the German states of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia.

Explaining the Native American Experience



American author Debra Magpie Earling (Right) talks to students after the reading from Her Book "Perma Red". Left: Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig

March 8 - 9, 2006. American author Debra Magpie Earling read from her book "Perma Red" at the Magdeburg's city library on March 8 and at the renowned high school "Philanthropinum" in Dessau on March 9. She spoke about her experiences as a Native American and discussed her own path in becoming a writer. Both readings sparked extended and vivid discussions on the role of Native Americans in past and contemporary American society, as well as on writing strategies and the importance of education for minorities. The attentive audience at Dessau's "Philanthropinum" once again demonstrated the school's impressive role, originally founded by the physician K. A. von Basedow in the 18th century, in the history of the humanities. Ms. Earling added an important facet to the image of multicultural America, and further, managed to encourage her young East German listeners to develop a sense of self-confidence and personal engagement.

Consul General Mark Scheland Opens "America@yourlibrary" Partnership in Magdeburg



American intern Adam Rahal and Native-American Writer Debra Magpie Earling during a presentation for two third grade classes in the children's library

March 8, 2006. Consul General Mark D. Scheland officially inaugurated the Consulate's enhanced library partnership with the Magdeburg Public Library. In 1992, the library opened a new section called the "Internationale Bibliothek Magdeburg," funded by several donations, among them one from the U.S. military base library in Neckarsulm. In the ensuing years, the Consulate and library have conducted several joint programs. The America@your library initiative signals an intensification of the cooperation. It includes donations of information materials, books and support for further relevant programs and workshops. The official ceremony topped off a series of inaugural events that included a reading and discussion by Native-American writer Debra Magpie Earling and a press conference. Mrs. Elizabeth Scheland and American intern Adam

Rahal also made a presentation for two third grade classes in the children's library, in which they gave a brief history of Native Americans and worked alongside the children in a craft workshop. Also in attendance from U.S. Embassy Berlin were Information Resource Officer (IRO) Holly Murten and Information Resource Center (IRC) Coordinator Nancy Rajczak. Magdeburg Library Director, Peter Petsch, praised the America@your library initiative for its recognition of the importance of libraries as agents of social change.

African-American History Month Workshop



The English teachers explore U.S. resources at the Information Resource Center. From left: Andreas Barth, Hohenstein-Ernstthal; Marcus Lapat, Altenburg; Kirsten Kirschke, English Teacher, Markkleeberg; U.S. intern Adam Rahal

Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960-1988)". Concluding the event, the teachers acquainted themselves with the Information Resource Center.

Ambassador Timken Guest of Honor at Feininger Celebration in Weimar



From left: Consul General Mark Scheland; Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr.; Lord Mayor of Weimar, Dr. Volkhardt Germer

February 18, 2006. Exactly one hundred years to the day after American artist Lyonel Feininger visited the city of Weimar for the first time, Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr., his wife Sue and daughter Fran Karsh took part in a series of events in the painter's honor. Feininger, who was born to German parents in New York City, spent a large part of his life in Berlin, Weimar and Dessau, painting famous motifs of the region and teaching as the first professor at the Bauhaus. After meeting with the mayor and city representatives, Ambassador Timken toured Bauhaus University and spoke as the guest of honor at the opening of a major Feininger exhibit, which drew a substantial crowd. Later in the day, he gave remarks at the dedication of the "Lyonel Feininger" suite at the Hotel Elephant.

Consul General Mark Scheland Meets the Grantees of the 2006/2007 Student Exchange Program of Magdeburg's German-American Dialog Center



From left: Dr. Uwe Küster, Member of Parliament; Consul General Mark D. Scheland; Scholarship Winners Matthias Hilpert and Grit Otte

February 3, 2006. After a competitive selection process for the 2006/2007 Student Exchange Program of the German-American Dialog Center in Magdeburg, three grantees were selected: Matthias Hilpert from Eisleben, Dana Lange from Calbe and Grit Otte from Schönebeck. The new grantees were presented to the public at a press conference attended by Bundestag Deputy and Dialog Center Chairman Dr. Uwe Küster and U.S. Consul General Mark D. Scheland in the Tower Room of the "Green Citadel." Since it was founded in 2000, the Dialog Center has enabled a total of 19 grantees each to spend ten months in the USA.

New Year's Reception of the U.S. Consulate General



Andreas Müller, Acting Lord Mayor of Leipzig, addresses the guest's of the New Year's reception of U.S. Consulate General Leipzig. Right: Consul General Mark D. Scheland

January 24, 2006. 200 guests from Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia, including several state ministers and lord mayors from the Leipzig consular district, gathered at the Marriott Hotel for Leipzig Consulate General's first ever New Year's reception. Consul General Mark D. Scheland took the opportunity to introduce to a larger public the other new American Consuls, Consul for Public Affairs Mark L. Wenig and Vice Consul/Political & Economic Affairs Michael R. Rousek, – all of whom arrived at Post within the past six months – and underscored the Consulate's presence in the region. The turnout of economic, political, business and academic representatives reflected the Consulate's wide variety of contacts and activities in the new Länder.

Lutherstadt Wittenberg Students Meet Leipzig's Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig



Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig at Leucorea Foundation

January 23, 2006. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and the director of the Information Resource Center (IRC) traveled to Lutherstadt Wittenberg to meet with 25 11th grade students and their English teacher from the Melanchthon Gymnasium at the American Library of Leucorea Foundation. Wenig lectured on a variety of U.S. related topics, among them a history of his home state of Alaska, U.S. Foreign Policy and the current state of international affairs. A Question & Answer session followed. IRC director also discussed U.S. resources and provided books, brochures and CDs "About the USA." A positive and receptive student audience welcomed Consul Wenig with a lively discussion and thoughtful questions, and the students plan a follow-up visit to the Leipzig Consulate.

Magdeburg Students Visit U.S. Consulate General Leipzig for Research on the Model United Nation World-Competition



The group of students from the Magdeburg University at the U.S. Consulate General Leipzig. Center: Vice Consul Michael R. Rousek

January 19, 2006. The Magdeburg University Model United Nations team came to the Consulate General in Leipzig to get a first hand look at world diplomacy. The team of about 25 students met with the American Vice Consul for Political and Economic Affairs, Mike Rousek, and discussed a wide range of topics, ranging from the role that the Leipzig Consulate and its diplomats play in Mission Germany, to current issues American foreign policy and trans-Atlantic partnership. The students will be representing Chile at the competition in New York City in the spring, and Vice Consul Rousek presented the team not only some great insights into US-Chile relations, but a packet of research to bolster their knowledge as well. The discussion was such a success that afterwards the students met the Vice Consul in a café to continue talking over lunch.

New Year's Reception of the American Chamber of Commerce Thuringia



From Left: Stefan Hertwig, Schenker Deutschland AG, American Chamber Committee Thuringia; Fred B. Irwin, President American Chamber Germany; Consul General Mark Scheland; Barbara Kupfer, LEG Thüringen; Minister President Dieter Althaus; Klaus Krah, Head American Chamber Chapter Thuringia; Susanne Wagner, Foreign Commercial Service (FCS) intern; Sascha Leese, Attorney, American Chamber Committee Thuringia

January 17, 2006 . With the generous cooperation of Minister-President Dieter Althaus, the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) Thuringia Chapter hosted its New Year's reception at the Thuringia State Chancellery in Erfurt. After opening remarks by Mr. Klaus Krah, AmCham President Fred Irwin, Minister-President Althaus, and Consul General Mark Scheland addressed the guests. Mr. Irwin concentrated on the importance of entrepreneurship for economic and political development in Germany. He asserted "the will to win is more important than to win." Minister-President Althaus and Mr. Scheland agreed in their speeches on the importance of transatlantic relations for economic progress in the U.S., in Germany, and in Europe. Both emphasized the common values that motivate national policy-making in our respective countries.

Panel on the Future of German-American Relations



Panelists: Manfred Kolbe, CDU MdB and IV Alumnus 2001; Prof. Crister Garrett from the Institute for American Studies of Leipzig University; Dr. Anita Kecke, Leipziger Volkszeitung (regional newspaper), IV Alumna 1995; Consul General Mark Scheland, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig; Dr. Hinrich Lehmann-Grube, SPD and former lord mayor of Leipzig (From Left)

January 11, 2006. Consul General Mark Scheland, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig, was one of the panelists in a discussion of "The Future of German-American Relations" organized by Advocates for Informed Democracy. Other panelists were Manfred Kolbe (CDU MdB and IV Alumnus 2001), Prof. Crister Garrett from the Institute for American Studies of Leipzig University, and Dr. Hinrich Lehmann-Grube, SPD, former lord mayor of Leipzig. Political columnist Dr. Anita Kecke (Leipziger Volkszeitung and IV Alumna 1995) was the moderator of a lively and, between the Germans, partisan discussion. The event drew a crowd of ca. 120 people.

Vice Consul Michael Rousek Attends Schleusingen New Year's Reception



Vice Consul Michael R. Rousek addresses the guests of the New Year's reception

January 10, 2006. Vice Consul Michael R. Rousek was warmly received as a guest of honor at the Schleusingen New Year's Reception hosted by Mayor Klaus Brodführer. In his New Year's message to the 280 guests in attendance, Mayor Brodführer discussed his positive but challenging outlook for the upcoming year, and announced he would run again for Mayor. Following his speech and a kind greeting from Thüringen Justice Minister Harald Schliemann, Vice Consul Rousek talked about the many levels of successful contact between the United States and Germany, with special attention to the state of Thüringen. He presented a calendar and a World Almanac to the Mayor as thanks for a successful evening, which ended in great cheer and many songs.